

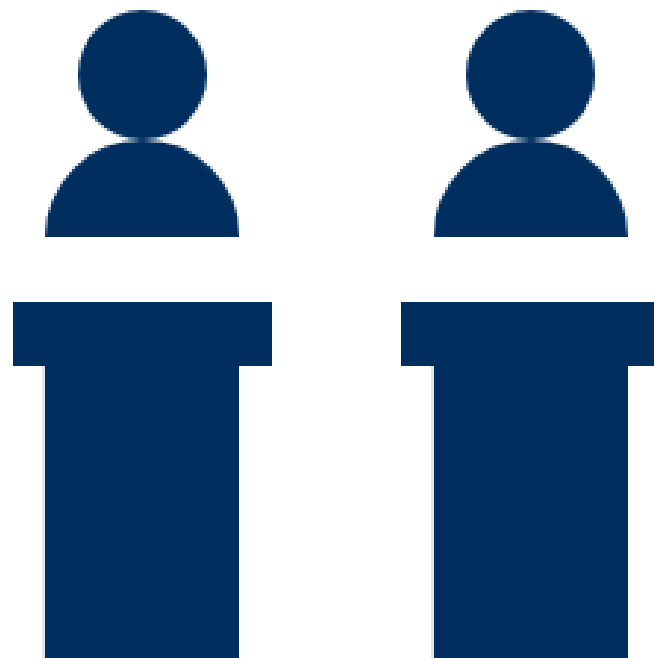


**Law Society
of Scotland**

The Law Society of Scotland

Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament

Handbook



Sponsored by Hodder Gibson Publishers



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Structure of overall tournament

1st Round Heats take place throughout November

2nd Round Heats take place in January

Semi Finals take place in March with an 'unseen' motion

National Final takes place in June (venue and date TBC)

Structure of tournament rounds

The format for the debate is two speakers per side with only two teams in each debate.

There will (generally) be two debates per heat:

1st debate - 1 proposition team to 1 opposition team

2nd debate - 1 proposition team to 1 opposition team



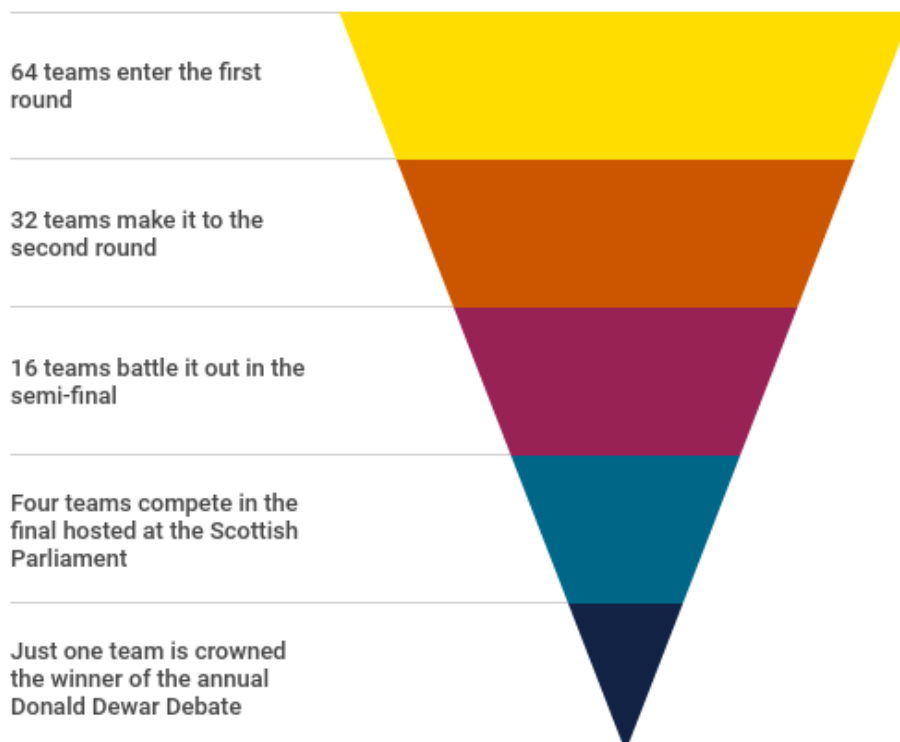
Format of the rounds

In the first two rounds, two teams from each heat will progress to the next rounds. The winning teams may be from different debates or the same debate, they may both be on the same side or on different sides of the argument - their score should determine their ranking.

Should one of the teams withdraw at short notice, the remaining proposing / opposing team will present their speeches twice but will be marked on their first presentation only.

It's important to remember that the speakers taking part in the second debate of the evening should NOT be present during the earlier debate.

Can you make it all the way?



First round heats

64 teams will start the tournament in the first rounds with 16 heats of 4 teams. The heats will take place on 2 separate evenings across Scotland.

Judges will choose the 2 highest performing teams to progress to the second rounds

- The motion and which side your team will be competing on (prop/opp) will be confirmed two weeks prior to the debate via email.
- Approximately 3 days prior to the heat, you will receive draft Order Papers which will indicate the order the teams are competing in. Please advise us at this stage if you wish to make changes to the speakers.
- Final Order Papers will be issued via email on the day of your heat.
- 2 main debates and 2 floor debates will take place on the evening and schools are encouraged to invite pupils to take part in the floor debates.
- A prize will be awarded by the judges for the best floor speech.

Second round heats

32 teams will progress to the second round heats. There will be 8 heats with 4 teams competing in each heats.

Judges will choose the 2 highest performing teams to progress to the second rounds

- As in the first rounds, the motion and your side of the argument will be confirmed 2 weeks prior to the debate via email. You should expect to receive the details of the second round draw in late December or early January.
- Draft Order Papers will be sent out approximately 3 days prior to your heat - please advise us at this stage if you wish to make any changes, and final Order Papers will be issued on the day of your heat.
- 2 main debates and 2 floor debates will take place on the evening and schools are encouraged to invite pupils to take part in the floor debates and once again, a prize will be awarded by the judges for the best floor speech.

Semi-Final rounds

16 teams will participate in the semi-final heats which will consist of 4 heats, each made up of 4 teams.

The semi-final motion is **unseen** and will be announced to the teams one hour before they compete. Teams will know in advance if they are prop / opp and are given one hour to prepare their arguments but are **not permitted to use textbooks, computers, phones or books and coaches cannot assist their teams' research.**



- Details of the semi-final round draw will be issued via email in February and as in earlier rounds, 2 main debates and 2 floor debates will take place on the evening. Schools should encourage their pupils to attend and participate in the floor debates. A prize will be awarded by the judges for the best floor speech.
- **The first 2 teams competing should arrive no later than 5.45pm and the motion will be announced at 6pm via text message to the debate team coaches. Host schools should ensure each team can prepare for their debate in separate rooms, out of earshot of the debating room.**
- **Judges and second teams should arrive no later than 6.45pm and the same process as outlined above should be followed. The host school debate coach should communicate the motion to the second teams at 7pm as the first teams exit their rooms.**
- **If the motion is announced later than planned - the debate will start later to ensure the teams have a full hour to prepare.**

National Final

4 teams will make it through to the National Final which will take place in June. As with the first and second round heats, the motion and which side of the argument your team will be competing on will be confirmed a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the debate via email. Pupils who have participated in previous rounds will be invited to come along to the Final and take part in the floor debate.

At the final, we will announce the winning team, the runners up and the finalists. The winning team will receive £1000 for their school and the tournament award.



A second prize of £250, donated by the Glasgow Bar Association, will be awarded to the runners up and all the finalists will receive a quach and a book token in commemoration of their success. Hodder Gibson Publishers will also donate educational books to the value of £250 to the winning and runner up schools and there will be a £50 book token awarded to the best floor speech of the evening.

Further details about the final are issued nearer the time.

Structure of individual debates

Section	Time Allowed
Chair's Introduction	5 minutes (approx)
First Proposition speaker	6 minutes
First Opposition speaker	6 minutes
Second Proposition speaker	6 minutes
Second Opposition speaker	6 minutes
Floor Debate	10 minutes
Opposition reply speech	3 minutes
Proposition reply speech	3 minutes
Adjudication time	10 - 15 minutes (approx)
Delivery of Adjudication results	5 minutes

(Repeat above for second debate)



The Chair should maintain control of the debate throughout and should be a member of the teaching or coaching staff of one of the schools present - they should not be a school pupil. **The Chair should be addressed as Mr/Madam Speaker or Mr/Madam Chair.**

Timekeeping

The method of signalling timing for speakers is at the discretion of the host. Some examples are a bell or an oral signal i.e. "one minute".

A time signal will be given:

- At the end of the first minute of each speech - that first minute having been protected from interruption,
- One minute from the end of each speech - that final minute being protected from interruption,
- A double signal at the end of six minutes, and
- A double signal each 30 seconds thereafter until the chair intervenes to ask the speaker to conclude

Reply speakers have 3 minutes and will be given a signal when they have one minute remaining - they cannot be interrupted at any stage of the reply speech.

In addition, speakers are permitted to use their own stopwatch during the course of the debate

The roles of the speakers

First Speaker - Proposition

The role of the first speaker of the affirmative is to:

- Define the topic,
- Establish the issues for the debate,
- Outline the affirmative case,
- Announce the case division between the speakers,
- Present and prove his or her part of the affirmative case



✓ *Whilst the proposition can define the motion in any way they see fit, a good definition will be straightforward, intelligent and fair to the opposition.*

✗ *Definitions that effectively preclude a rebuttal should be heavily penalised.*

For example, if the motion were 'This House believes in the right to an education', and the proposition define education as any learning, in any setting, from any person (including learning to speak, walk, talk etc) then it will be impossible to rebut the argument.

✗ *Definitions which are too narrow, tautological or truistic, or too far removed from a 'common-sense' interpretation of the motion should also be penalised.*

✓ *As the first speaker for the proposition has nothing to respond to by way of previous speech, particular attention should be paid to how they deal with points raised by the opposition.*

First Speaker - Opposition

The first speaker for the opposition can:

Challenge the definition - in whole or in part, in which case they should present their reasons for doing so and their alternative or amended definition - if the proposition have presented a reasonable definition, but not one the opposition has predicted, they should take care how far they seek to amend it. Opposition speakers will be rewarded for tackling poor definitions, pointing out inconsistencies, examining weaknesses, and challenging fact. They will be penalised for attacking a good definition or ignoring issues established by the proposition

OR

Accept the definition and go on to outline weakness and inconsistencies in the proposition arguments

The first speaker for the opposition should

- Outline the opposition case,
- Announce the case division between the speakers, and
- Present and prove his or her part of the negative case

It is only during this speech that the final parameters of the debate are in place. By the end of this speech it should be clear which parts of the definition are accepted, which are contended and what the approach of the opposition is going to be

Flexibility should be rewarded - the best debates are those based on argument rather than definition

The roles of the speakers cont

Second Speakers - Proposition and Opposition

The second speakers should:

- Lead on logically from the first,
- Rebut the positions presented by the other side,
- Address questions raised fully, and
- Concisely sum up their own, and their side's position



Reply Speakers - Proposition and Opposition

It is up to the teams to decide who the reply speaker is - it does not matter which position they have taken in the main debate.

- The Opposition reply will come first the choice should be intimated to the chair and the judges in advance.
- The reply speaker will have 10 minutes to prepare during the floor debate and should provide a compelling argument summarising the main themes of the debate and outlining the superiority of their side.
- No new arguments should be raised at this stage although speakers may present additional information in response to arguments made earlier

Points of information

- Between the first and fifth minutes of a speaker's substantive speech, members of the other team may offer points of information,
- To offer a point of information, a speaker stands and says 'point of information' - they should then wait until the person delivering their speech either accepts or declines the point,
- The purpose of a point of information is to make a short point or ask a short question of the speaker. Points should be made through the Chairperson; 'Madam Chair, does the speaker appreciate that.....'
- As a general rule, a speaker should accept at least 2 points of information in his or her speech,



- As a general rule, each team member should offer between 2 and 4 points of information per speech and should not offer them within a short time of a previous point of information being offered,
- Barracking, personal comments or attacks and poor quality or a failure to respond should be penalised,
- The response by the speaker to a point of information should be included in the mark for that speaker's speech,
- The offering of points of information should be included in the mark for the speaker offering points

Judging

There will be a Judging Panel, usually of 3, at each heat but if due to unforeseen circumstances, this should alter on the day, the debate should proceed with the remaining judge(s).

Judges mark independently of each other during the course of the debates and should leave the debate room at the end of the debate to confer briefly.

The purpose of the conference is to brief one of the judges (normally the Presiding Judge) to give a short adjudication on behalf of the Judging Panel.



Each panel will have a Presiding Judge who will oversee the decision making, ensuring decisions are based on the rules and guidance and should lead feedback to the schools. Judges should be careful to refer ONLY to the criteria stated in the rules when providing feedback and should refrain from giving feedback unless experienced in doing so.

The purpose of the conference is to brief one of the judges (normally the Presiding Judge) to give a short adjudication on behalf of the Judging Panel.

Judges can decide how marks are combined. In some instances it may be most appropriate to add numeric scores whilst in others, it may be best to take the relative positions in which each judge has placed the teams. Judges should have absolute discretion but should be prepared to justify their result based on the guidance received.

Judges should also select a 'Best Floor Speaker' of the night, using the criteria in this guidance and announce the winner.

The adjudication should be short and should explain the result to the audience. In particular, it should set out the key reasons why they winning team(s) won and comment on significant matters of debate style or technique that were displayed in the debate.

The adjudication should be constructive, not negative!

Marking standards

It is expected that judges have watched the 'guidance for judges' webinar and should therefore be familiar with all the information in this document.

It is also expected that judges will mark on the basis of the information provided in this document as a whole and this section specifically. It is the job of the judges to determine which team was most convincing as debaters using 2 key criteria: content and style.

It should be noted that a common judging error is to award points on style over content. Whilst confident and eloquent speakers should receive high marks for their skills, at the heart of debating lies the ability to present a coherent, structured, reasoned argument supported by appropriate evidence. Hence the weighting in the marking system



Another common issue is how to score teams in a debate in which one team has a very strong speaker and a weak speaker, whilst the other has 2 mediocre speakers. The Society has taken the view that debating is a team-based contest that depends on consistency of approach, consistency of argument, and both members fulfilling their respective roles. Team performance should be used as a deciding factor in such instances.

SCORING

For all main speeches

Content - 60

Style = 40

For reply speeches

Content - 60

Style = 40

Marking sheets will be sent to you by email and should be printed out by the host school.

Marking content

'Content' is the argument used by the speaker, divorced from speaking style

Judges will consider the following:

Structure - Was there a clear and logical structure to the individual speeches? Was it related to the speech the other member of the team made / was going to make? Was the structure easy to follow? Was the sequence logical?



Roles of Speakers - Did each speaker fulfill the role relating to his or her position in the debate? Did the speakers work well as a team? Speakers who do not perform their roles should be penalised

Evidence - Were facts and figures presented to support the arguments made? Were sources of authority cited? Was it possible to determine the level of research the team had engaged in? Did the team use evidence to rebut and counter arguments from the other side?

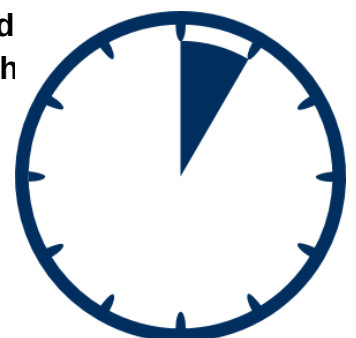
Relevance - Was the speech relevant to the motion and / or the definitions provided? Did any irrelevant material hinder the progress of the argument? Was humour, if used, relevant? Were any relevant areas deliberately or accidentally avoided?

Rebuttal - Did the speaker rebut the arguments of the preceding speakers on the other side? Did they fail to rebut any arguments? Did they appear to understand the arguments made? Did they use evidence in their rebuttal? A key skill is the undermining of the other side whilst at the same time bolstering your own arguments - this should be rewarded

Analysis - Was the evidence interpreted by the speaker and related to the argument in a perceptive and appropriate manner? Were issues graded according to relevance and strength? Were examples used to emphasise the arguments being put forward? Was the analysis logical and consistent? Were there contradictions, flaws or assumptions made?

Points of Information - Did the speakers accept / offer sufficient points of information? A speaker who offers no or very few points of information should be penalised. A speaker who accepts no points should be heavily penalised

Timing - Whilst short over/under running should not be penalised, any significant divergence from the set times should be, in relation to its length and any extenuating circumstances



Marking style

'Style' is the way in which the speakers speak

Judges will consider the following:

Confidence - Does the speaker appear confident? Do they take command of the room and of the topic? Do they maintain eye contact and speak with flair?



Speaking Style - Does the speaker vary their tone, speed and volume? Do they use appropriate humour? Do they project their voice? Are they fluent? Do they 'um, ah and erm'? Do they connect with the audience? Do they use repetition to make a point? Does the speech flow? Do they use gestures and body language to reinforce points? Gimmick, 'pantomime', and stylistic issues that detract from the content and argument should be penalised.

Off-the-cuff responses - Speakers whose style is consistent when addressing questions raised as a point of information, or in rebutting the other side's arguments should be rewarded



Use of notes - Speakers should only use notes and only refer to them intermittently. Reading a brief verbatim from another speaker of authoritative source may be acceptable, in virtually no other circumstances is it permissible to read from notes - speakers who do this are not debating and should be penalised heavily

What makes a speech *more* persuasive?



- Speaking clearly and understandably
- Making relevant, powerful arguments
- Providing evidence and reasoning to back up arguments
- Responding to the other team's arguments
- Adding to arguments with appropriate stylistic flourishes: quotes, anecdotes etc
- Accepting at least one point of information
- Offering points of information
- Making good use of time, giving each point enough time to be explained properly
- Structuring arguments in a way that is logical and easy to follow
- In a summary speech, cover the important things that happened in the debate

What makes a speech *less* persuasive?

- Speaking in a way that is hard to follow
- Speaking in an over-prepared style e.g. reading out a speech without making eye contact
- Asserting arguments - not providing evidence or reasoning to back them up
- Not responding to the other team's arguments
- Accepting no points of information
- Offering no points of information
- Making poor use of time e.g. rushing a point at the end of your speech
- Messy, hard-to-follow structure, unclear when one point ends and another begins
- In a summary speech, leaving out large sections of the debate



Overall marks

Below is a rough guide to what the combined marks about a speaker should mean



Main Speech	Reply Speech	Level
90 - 100	45 - 50	<p>This is a world-class debater who has just delivered a speech among the best you've ever heard - 'I have a dream', 'We will fight them on the beaches' standard</p>
80 - 90	40 - 45	<p>A potential winner of the competition; fluent, eloquent, engaging of the audience, responding well to questions, addressing the issues raised by the other team, structured and logical. Technically competent across all the criteria</p>
70 - 80	35 - 40	<p>A very strong speaker likely to do well in future rounds - but no feeling that they are a potential overall winner. Competent in all areas, logical, structured, with a degree of flair</p>
60 - 70	30 - 35	<p>A strong speaker likely to do well in future rounds. Technically competent but perhaps with one or two weaker areas. Not difficult to listen to but no real flair. A structured and organised presentation but not one that seems to conclusively build into a winning argument</p>
50 - 60	25 - 30	<p>Just competent as a debater. They are clearly aware of the standards they are trying to meet but have not displayed any real flair. The argument may have been a little disjointed and there will have been some issues of style but someone to be encouraged to try again</p>
40 - 50	20 - 25	<p>Someone who has failed to meet several of the criteria. Whilst they may still be excellent in some areas there were significant flaws in both content and style i.e. contradictory arguments, lack of evidence, failing to give any points etc</p>
0 - 30	0 - 20	<p>Serious failure to meet the criteria. This person is likely to read from their paper, have serious flaws in their argument, flaws in their timekeeping and have contributed little to the debate</p>

Floor speeches

At each heat a prize will be awarded to the best floor speaker of the evening. Part of the purpose of this is to encourage contributions, especially from those who may not yet be at the stage of entering full competitions

The purpose of a floor speech is not to specifically attack or undermine the speeches of other schools and these should be judged against the following criteria:



Structure - Was there a clear and logical structure to the speeches? Was it related to issues already discussed or highlighted as a new point / position / angle?

Relevance - Was the speech relevant to the motion and/or the definitions provided? Did any irrelevant material hinder the progress of the argument? Was humour, if used, relevant?

Confidence - Does the speaker appear confident? Do they take command of the room and of the topic? Do they maintain eye contact and speak with flair?

Rebuttal - Did the speaker rebut the arguments of the preceding speakers on the other side? Did they fail to rebut any arguments? Did they appear to understand the arguments made? Did they use evidence in their rebuttal? A key skill is the undermining of the other side whilst at the same time bolstering your own arguments - this should be rewarded

Speaking style - Do they vary their tone, speed and volume? Do they use appropriate humour? Do they project their voice? Are they fluent? Do they 'um, ah, and erm'? Do they 'connect' with the audience? Do they use repetition to make a point? Does the speech flow? Do they use gestures and body language to reinforce points?

Use of Notes - Speakers should only use notes and only refer to them intermittently.

Reading a brief verbatim quote from another speaker or authoritative source may be acceptable, in virtually no other circumstances is it permissible to read from notes

Evidence - Were facts and figures presented to support the arguments made? Were sources of authority cited? Was it possible to determine the level of research engaged? Did the speaker use evidence to rebut and counter arguments from the other side? Did they challenge the evidence of the other party?



Analysis - Was the evidence interpreted by the speaker and related to the argument in a perceptive and appropriate manner? Were issues graded according to relevance and strength? Were examples used to emphasise the arguments being put forward? Was the analysis logical and consistent? Were there contradictions, flaws or assumptions made?

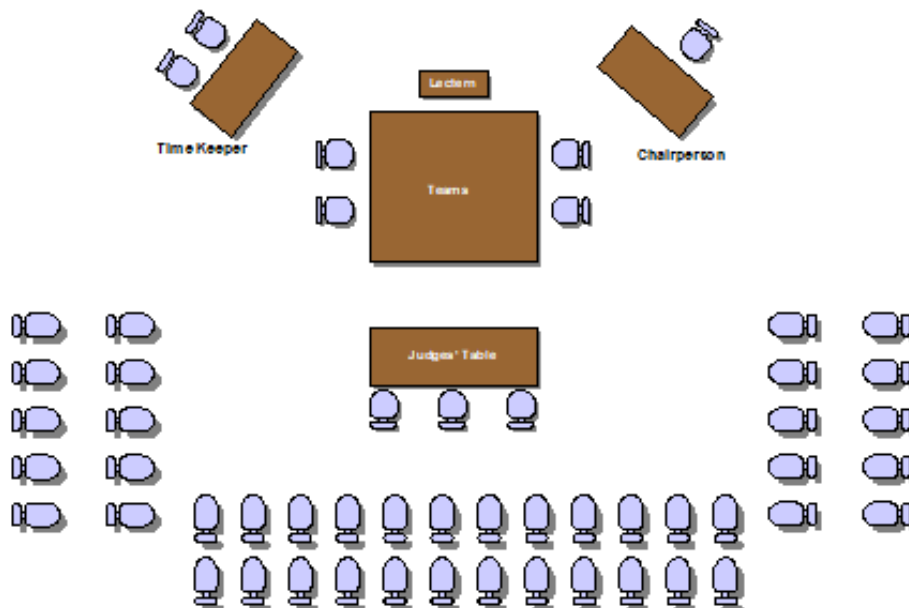
Guidance for hosts

We depend heavily on the many schools who are kind enough to support us by providing venues. Without this support, quite simply, the competition could not go ahead and we take this opportunity to thank all host schools

We are aware that you may have hosted debates in the past, however, we thought it would be useful to provide a checklist covering some of the basics for those new to hosting or debating:

Debating Hall

You will need to provide a hall capable of being set up in a manner similar to the diagram below. The levels of support attending each heat can vary and therefore we ask that all schools notify their hosts if they are bringing more than approximately 8 supporters however, ideally, venues should be capable of sitting approximately 40 supporters, coaches and parents.



Spare Rooms

We would also request that you have at least 2 spare rooms available. These can be used by teams awaiting their turn (they should not be in the audience during earlier debates) and can also be used by the judges as they confer.

Order Papers

The Law Society will provide all teams competing with an Order Paper for their debate but we would be grateful if the host venue could copy this for the judges, timekeepers, chair and spares for the audience,



Time Keepers

The host venue will be responsible for providing a timekeeper. This is an important job as the speakers are dependent on their time signals coming at the correct intervals. For this reason, we usually suggest 2 people, in case one's attention is distracted.

Chair Person

The host venue will also be responsible for providing a chairperson. This should be an adult and is usually a coach or teacher from the host venue - pupils should not be used to chair heats. Guidance on the role of the chair is provided later in the information booklet.

Catering

Host venues usually provide tea/coffee/juice/biscuits either prior to the start of the debate and during the judging. We appreciate that schools have different arrangements for such matters and would ask anyone for whom this presents a problem, to contact the society.

Other things to consider

- Ensuring there are pupils / staff / parents available to direct other teams as they arrive and able to show people where there are toilet facilities etc,
- Ensuring that the location of the debate is signposted if, for example, the debating hall is accessed from somewhere other than the main door / reception of the school,
- The availability of car-parking on the night,
- Ensuring that no school bells sound during the debate



Guidance for the chairperson

1. Welcome to Everyone!

This is heat of the round of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament sponsored by Hodder Gibson Publishers.

The Tournament is one of the outreach initiatives undertaken by the Law Society of Scotland and the legal profession to support education, understanding of the law and careers advice.

From this round teams will progress to the next stage of the competition.

2. Introductions

- Chairperson
- Judging Panel - please introduce by name
- Debating Teams
- Timekeepers



3. Announce the motion for debate

4. On behalf of the Law Society of Scotland - wish everyone good luck and invite teams competing in the second debate of the evening (if they are present) to adjourn to another room.

5. Invite PROPOSING team to begin debate (follow order specified in rules for subsequent speeches)

6. Encourage questions from the floor whilst debaters prepare reply speeches - try to maintain for 10 minutes.

7. Invite OPPOSING team to begin reply speeches (then PROPOSING team to conclude).

8. Close first debate and allow judging panel to confer briefly.

9. Introduce second debate and continue from point 4 above.

10. Invite judges to adjourn briefly.

11. Invite Presiding Judge to deliver their brief adjudication and announce the winning teams and winner of the best floor speech.

12. Congratulations to and thanks to all - speakers, audience, judges, timekeepers and those contributing to the floor debate.

Practical information

Bad Weather

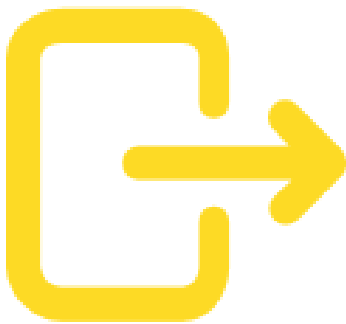
As the first and second round heats take place over the winter months, there is always the possibility of weather affecting travel conditions. As far as possible, we do wish to ensure heats take place on the allocated nights but safety is, of course, our primary concern. In case of bad weather, please adhere to the following guide:

- If you are hosting the heat please phone 0131 476 8143 on the day of the heat, before 3pm, to advise of weather conditions
- A decision as to whether to run the heat will be taken at the discretion of the Society, taking into account the conditions and distances teams have to travel
- If the decision to postpone is taken, all schools will be contacted before 5pm on the day of the heat via email, and phone if required. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND PHONES ON THE DAY
- If the heat needs to be cancelled, we will strive to offer alternative dates to reschedule the heat and all teams are asked to be as flexible as possible. It is intended that the venue and timings will
- remain the same. If a team is unable to manage the alternative date, unfortunately they may not be able to be included in the draw. If two or more teams cannot attend the alternative dates, Team Debate will work to find further possible dates but this can not be guaranteed



Withdrawing from the tournament

We understand how busy the school term can get, and of course prelims, Christmas concerts and university open days can often clash with the night of a heat.



We would ask all coaches to bear in mind that the debating tournament is oversubscribed and if we receive notice of a team having to cancel early enough, we can usually ensure another team can be included as a replacement. However, if the notice period is less than 10 days, it becomes unlikely that we can accommodate a new team. We would therefore, be most grateful if you could advise us as soon as possible if your team is unable to compete so we can ask a reserve team to take your place

Practical information cont

Late Arrival

- The Order Paper will state when the debate is to start - this is normally 7pm (unless otherwise agreed). We ask that all judges and teams arrive no later than 6.45pm to ensure a prompt start of 7pm
- If a team is late to arrive - we would ask that all teams wait until 7.15pm. After this time, a decision must be reached as to how to proceed
- If the two teams competing in the first debate have arrived, then the debate should start as planned. If one of the teams competing in the first debate has not arrived by 7.15pm but all other teams are present, we would ask that the two teams due to compete in the second debate swap around so they compete first
- If you are travelling to a debate and think that you are likely to be late, we would ask that you attempt to contact the host school to advise them of this and your likely arrival time. Alternatively, contact Team Debate on the number provided in the Order Paper who can then try to contact the host school
- If one or more judges are late, please wait until 7.15pm and then start the debate with the present judging panel. If the Presiding Judge is late or does not arrive, the remaining panel should decide between them who will act as Presiding Judge. In the unlikely event that no judges arrive by 7.30pm at the latest, the debate should be cancelled and rescheduled for a later date



Practical information cont

Teams failing to appear

We ask that all teams confirm their attendance and inform us in advance if they have to withdraw from the tournament. However, despite this, there may be occasions where teams fail to arrive at the heat.

As stated above, please allow all teams a grace period of 15 minutes to arrive. If a team fails to appear, please follow these general guidelines:

- If three of the four teams have arrived, ensure that debate one consists of a Prop and Opp
- If the two teams competing in the first debate have arrived - start the debate as planned as soon as possible
- If one of the teams competing in the first debate has not arrived by 7.15pm but all other teams are present, please follow the following steps:
 - If a Prop team has failed to arrive, the present Prop team should compete twice. The first performance will be judged competitively
 - If an Opp team has failed to arrive, the present Opp team should compete twice. The first performance will be judged competitively
- In the first rounds, if two teams fail to arrive, the two remaining teams will automatically go through to the second rounds. If the remaining teams are prop and opp, the coaches and judges are encouraged to advise a non-competitive debate takes place
- In the second rounds, in the extremely unlikely case of two teams failing to arrive, please follow these steps:
 - If the two teams present are on different sides of the debate, a non-competitive debate should take place
 - If the teams present are on the same side of the debate, we would suggest that the debate be rescheduled to allow for one of the teams to prepare an argument for the other side of the debate. If however, one team is happy to swap sides to ensure the debate can run as planned, that would be great!

Attending heats

We encourage all schools to invite an audience to attend the heats, in particular pupils from debating teams to participate in the floor debates. If you wish to bring an audience to your team's heat please email debate@lawscot.org.uk with an indication of the number of people attending so we can inform the host school and ensure this number can be accommodated. A lively audience certainly adds to the atmosphere of the debate

and we encourage as many as possible to attend!

**Thank you all for your cooperation in helping to
make this tournament a success and best of
luck!**

